## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Kenji Harano, et al. Examiner: Michael F. Peffley

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Mail Stop Patent Application Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to consider the above-identifed continuation application in view of the following amendments and remarks.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 11 of this paper.

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Dated: September 11, 2003

1